GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1217
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
SAFETY OF DAMS
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has some proposals to reconstruct or provide aid to State Governments for reconstruction of old Dams which are in dangerous position;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has made any proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Dam safety is being monitored by any authority in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the check of inter-state Dams alongwith the steps taken to resolve the issues;

(g) whether a Dam in Kerala from which water is being taken to Tamil Nadu in Idukki District, Kerala is allegedly to be unsafe; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken with regard to the controversy, if any, between Tamil Nadu and Kerala in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) The Government has no proposal to reconstruct or aid the State Government for reconstruction of old dams. Government of India has framed Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) with the aim to improve safety and optimum sustainable performance of the dams. Proposals from 13 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal have been received under DRIP for dam safety and rehabilitation and has been posed for World Bank assistance.

(c)&(d) Proposal for Basic Dam Safety Facilities and Remedial Measures for 31 dams has been submitted by the Government of Kerala. The list of dams is enclosed as Annex I.

(e)&(f) The States are the owners of the dams within their territories, and hence States are responsible for the dam safety and any remedial measures. However, a Dam Safety Organization (DSO) has been created at the Centre in Central Water Commission (CWC) in 1979. The objective of the DSO is to perform a coordinative and advisory role for the State Governments and to lay down guidelines, compile technical literature, organize trainings, etc., and in general to take steps to create awareness in the States about the dam safety and thereafter assist in setting up infrastructure for the same. A Standing Committee on Dam Safety has been constituted in 1982 comprising members from the Centre and State Governments to meet periodically and discuss dam safety issues. This Committee meets regularly to discuss issues on dam safety with a view to oversee dam safety activities in various States / Organizations and suggest improvements to bring these in line with the latest state-of-art consistent with the Indian conditions. Besides, the Committee also monitors follow-up action on the recommendations of the `Report on Dam Safety Procedure` published in July 1986.

(g) & (h) A note on the safety of the Mulla Periyar dam and the steps taken to resolve the controversy is enclosed in the Annex II.